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NIP-275

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

H. INOUE et al.

Serial No. 10/088,114

Group Art Unit: 3746

Filed: July 18, 2002

Examiner: Belena, John F.

For: GAS TURBINE COMBUSTOR, PRE-MIXER FOR TURBINE COMBUSTORS
AND PREMIXING METHOD FOR GAS TURBINE COMBUSTORS

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF OFFICE ACTION AND
RESET OF THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request clarification of the following matters in the Office Action mailed February 25, 2004.

FINALITY OF ACTION

The Office Action Summary page of the Action states that the Action is Final, but no reference is made to the finality of the Action in the Conclusion of the Action. While Applicants believe that the Action was intended to be final, clarification is requested.

DISPOSITION OF CLAIMS

In the Office Action Summary page, claims 1-6, 12, 13, 15 and 16 are acknowledged as being pending in the Action, claims 1, 4 and 7 are listed as being rejected and claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 12, 13, 15 and 16 are listed as objected to.

On pages 2 through 8 of the Action, however, all of the pending claims are indicated as being rejected except for claim 6 which is only objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but was stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants, therefore, request clarification as to which claims are rejected and which claims are only objected to.

DRAWINGS

Applicants filed a Request for Approval of Proposed Drawing Corrections along with the Amendment filed December 15, 2003. There was no indication in the Office Action of February 25, 2004 that the request has been considered and/or approved. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the proposed drawing corrections be approved.

Finally, it is requested that the time for response be reset to run from the time of clarification of the Office Action of February 25, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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